NOTE VI.

ON VESPERTILIO AKOKOMULI AND VESPERTILIO ERYTHRODACTYLUS, TYPES OF TEMMINCK.

BY

Dr. F. A. JENTINK.

November 1879.

Vespertilio akokomuli, Temminck.

Temminck 1) states »il paraît que les Japonais confondent le *Vespertilion macrodactyle* avec le *Vespertilion abrame*, l'un et l'autre sont désignés par eux sous le nom de *Komuli.*"

In the description of his V. abramus 2) however we read »nous conservons son nom japonais" viz. *abrame*. Concerning the indigenous name of V. akokomuli 3) he says »son nom japonais est *Komuli*, que porte aussi le *V. macrodactyle.*" In the Fauna japonica 4) we learn „le nom japonais du *V. macrodactyle* n'est pas indiqué", further 5) „le nom japonais du *V. abrame* est *abramusi* (insecte du lard)" and 6) »le nom japonais du *V. akakomuli* (*akokomuli*

---

1) Monographies de Mammalogie, II, p. 232.
2) ibid. p. 233.
3) ibid. p. 234.
4) Fauna japonica, p. 17.
5) ibid. p. 17.
6) ibid. p. 18.

see supra) serait selon M. Burger *Komuli* ou *akakomuli* (Vespertilion noir)". Finally Temminck [1] says »le nom japonais du *V. molosse* est *aka-komuli.*"

Every body will agree that the confusion is very great, and is still increased by examining Temminck's types which show that *V. akokomuli* is *not* a black bat, but a brownish one!

I supposed that the Japanese word *komuli* signified *a bat.* My friend Mr. Serrurier, assistant to the Ethnographical Museum, however kindly informed me that the Japanese do not pronounce or write the character *l*, and that they call *a bat*, *Kōmori* [2]. The Japanese word *akaki* signifying *red*, is abridged in compounds to *aka*; and so *akakōmori* signifies *red bat.* In this way it becomes intelligible why the Japanese apply the common term *Kōmori* in designating Temminck's three new described species, and it is also evident that they have not confounded them. *Abramusi* is nothing, but *Abŭrá-musi* [3]) signifies at Nagasaki and Miyako *shining insect*, the name for *Blatta orientalis*: perhaps the bat feeds on these insects.

Temminck refers [4]) in his article on *V. abramus* to pl. 58, figs 1 and 2 (in the Fauna Japonica he quotes pl. 58, fig. 1), but in examining that plate we find that these figs 1 and 2 belong to *V. délicat*, a bat nowhere named in the text. At the head of his description of *V. carolinensis*, Temminck by mistake indicates the same plate 58 fig. 1, as a figure of that species; and he refers in his article on *V. ferrugineus* once more to pl. 58. fig. 2 (this must be pl. 59, figs 1 and 2). But who shall point out what Temminck meant by his *V. délicat*; certainly that

---

1) Fauna japonica p. 15.

2) Kōmori, 伏カウ翼モリ。カハぼり.

3) 滑アブラ蟲ムシ, Abŭrá-musi.

4) Monographies de Mammalogie, II. p. 232.

figure does not belong to *V. abramus*, which latter species has a postcalcaneal lobe, an organe not represented in the figure referred to. The figures 8 and 9 on plate 57 are those of the *V. akakomulie*, lege *akakōmori*, but inexact in so far as the point of attachment of the wing-membranes «in natura" is the base of the toes and not so high up as is represented in figure 8.

It seems that no naturalist after Temminck has examined the type-specimens of the *V. akakōmori* in the Leyden Museum. Tomes [1]) says «that *V. akokomuli* probably is a good species". Swinhoe [2]) refers that in Hainan and in Canton he has procured bats, determined by Prof. Peters as belonging to *Vesperugo abramus* Tem̄. (*V. akokomali* or *akakomuli*). Dobson in his Catalogue of the Chiroptera, 1878, for the rest so complete and exact, and also in his Monograph of the Asiatic Chiroptera, 1876, has nowhere spoken of the Bat in question.

Now I have carefully examined the specimens in our Museum, labeled *V. akakomuli* by Temminck (four alcoholic and one stuffed specimen) and I have not found any difference between them and *V. abramus* Tem̄., neither in dentition, nor in color, nor in size: the males present the same characteristic peculiarity, sc. the enormous development of the long bony penis, «which, in proportion to the size of the animal, is much larger than in any other species of Bat", as Dobson remarks [3]). Thus *Vesperugo akakōmori* is synonymous with *Vesperugo abramus* Tem̄. Dobson has only omitted to observe that the *abramus* has the incisors of the lower jaw trifid.

Vespertilio erythrodactylus, Temminck.

Another species not mentioned by Dobson in his work above referred to is *Vespertilio erythrodactylus*, Temminck; the type specimens are described in Temminck's Monographies de Mammalogie, II, p. 238. The only author who refers to this species is Allen in his Monograph of the Bats of North America, 1864, where he gives, p. 76, a translation of Temminck's description, without more, and p. 46 he enumerates *V. erythrodactylus* among the so-called species of North America. It seems that Temminck himself has hesitated whether his species was a good one, for he says, p. 239, »cette espèce présumée nouvelle".

---

[1]) P. Z. S. L. 1858, p. 539, Note.
[2]) P. Z. S. L. 1870, p. 227 and p. 618.
[3]) Catalogue of the Chiroptera, 1878, p. 227.

And indeed, having now studied the type specimens in our Museum, I am convinced that they belong to *Vesperugo georgianus* F. Cuv., agreeing wholly with the descriptions of this species given by Allen and Dobson.